

PHYS393 Week 4 Feedback

Kai's response

20 October 2011

I have received 14 returns for the feedback forms so far. Thank you very much!

The overall feedback appears positive on average. A few issues are raised, which I discuss here:

1. The content. Some found the content boring. I apologise for that. If there is any aspect in the topic that you are interested to know, or another way of learning that you prefer, please tell me and I shall try and fit it in.
2. The lecture. Some found me rather difficult to hear. I did try and speak loudly. I shall try harder. If you still cannot hear me, please come and sit in front.
3. The exercises. Some find the exercises a waste of time. The purpose of the exercises is to see how much you have understood. I need you to discuss with me directly in the lectures so I can adjust the pace of the lectures. Please feel free to suggest other ways. I also have a question. The students try the exercises and I explain the answers. Why is that a waste of time?
4. The tutorials. Some found the tutorials too hard. The tutorials do require a fair understand of the lecture notes and weekly exercises. It could also mean that I need to go into certain areas in more details during the lectures. I do need to know what the difficult areas are. Please come and talk to me and I shall see how I could help.
5. The videos. Some find the videos very helpful, some find them rather useless. As the average is 'rather helpful' (2), I shall continue showing them until it becomes 'rather useless' (4).
6. Worked examples in lecture notes. Excellent suggestion! If you click on <http://hep.ph.liv.ac.uk/~hock/Teaching/lectures-2010.html> you will find the notes from last year. These are very similar, except that they contain worked examples at the end of each set of notes. I have left them out this year because I thought there is too much material. However, if you like worked examples, here they are.
7. Dependencies on PHYS253 Thermodynamics. The things from PHYS253 that you need to know are given in handout 1, as I have explained at the first lecture. If you find that unclear, please tell me in what form you prefer to have it. You do not need Maxwell relations

and state differentials in PHYS393. Distributions functions – only Boltzmann distribution is covered in any detail in PHYS253. Fermi-Dirac and Bose-Einstein I have covered in detail over the past 3 weeks, starting from the basics and without assuming that you already knew them.

8. Embolden most essential equations. Another excellent suggestion! I have made a list of important equations here:

<http://hep.ph.liv.ac.uk/~hock/Teaching/2011-2012/PHYS393-important-equations.pdf>

Please go through your handouts with a pen and highlight the equations there.

I hope I have addressed the main issues. If you have questions or suggestions, please let me know. If you prefer to remain anonymous, just leave a note in my pigeonhole.